

Steps to Becoming a Performing Member of the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild

- (1) All members join as Supporting Members, indicating personal preferences and special abilities on the Application for Membership form.
 - (2) Be active in the guild. Besides being involved in your chosen/assigned areas of activity, attend as many of the general meetings as you are able (held approximately every other month). This is a good opportunity to get to know your fellow members and the business of the guild.
 - (3) Attend as many of the Tuesday night performances as you are able. These are free to you as a supporting member. You will get a first-hand idea of what the guild expects of performers (telling, timing, emceeing, general stage presence).
 - (4) Enrich your exposure to guild-sponsored events by attending and participating in such things as Discovery Park/Jonesborough parade, the Swappin' Ground during the National Storytelling Festival, Tellabration, Graveyard Tales, etc. (note: entrance fee required for some events if you are not a teller or worker).
 - (5) While you are doing the above, be putting your own portfolio of stories together. Create your identity as a storyteller:
 - a. What kind of stories do you want to tell?
 - b. What stage name would you like to go by?
 - c. Create your stories and practice them. Now time them and practice some more.
 - (6) When you have a story you feel comfortable with telling, take advantage of open mics. There are opportunities to tell in numerous venues in our area before you are an official performing member of the guild. Some of these are:
 - a. The Crumley House (Contact info in the newsletter). Held the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Crumley House in Telford at 1:00 p.m.
 - b. Swappin' Ground during the Storytelling Festival. It is on the hill behind the Storytelling Center and is hosted by JSG. Sign up to tell a ten-minute story. Arrive early and listen to others. Help guild members if needed.
 - c. Open Mic events (Listed in the JSG newsletter with contact information)
 - (7) When you:
 - a. have been a supporting member and acclimated into the guild activities above, usually a process of about a year,
 - b. have put together a portfolio of your own stories that total at least two hours of telling time (8-10 stories),
 - c. feel you are ready to take the next step,
- Contact the President of JSG and request an interview with the Executive Board. It is an informal get-together – a chance for questions from you and the board members. If it is determined you are ready, you will be assigned an official mentor and enter the Apprentice Channel.
- (8) Work with your mentor until you both feel you are ready to audition. There will be two auditions – one at a JSG general meeting with members only, and the second on stage at the ISC with members of JSG and a public audience.
 - (9) Evaluations by your JSG peers will be shared with you and your mentor within a couple of days after each audition. After successful auditions before both your JSG and public audiences, you will officially be recommended as a Performing Member by your mentor and accepted by a vote of the membership at a general meeting. You will then be put on the weekly performance schedule for Stories 'n More but will continue to work with your mentor to attain the final steps of becoming an emcee and a featured teller (longer telling time allotted). Happy Telling!

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